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2010 年世界杯英语新闻报道的批评性话语分析

A Critical Discourse Analysis of English News Reports on
World Cup 2010

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Abstract

News media is an important source for people to get information about the world and influences people's belief, attitude and behavior. People tend to believe that news is the representation of the reality. However, this opinion is challenged by critical scholars who state that news is not the representation of the reality but the reflection of ideology of a reporter. Therefore, it is necessary to uncover the hidden ideology and help people realize how the ideology influences their beliefs and behaviors.

The World Cup 2010, held in South Africa, was an important international event. The English reports on the event are the objects of this thesis. The author chooses the news discourses from three newspapers, namely *The New York Times* of America, *The Guardian* of England, and *The Sydney Morning Herald* of Australia. From each newspaper, 15 discourses are selected. The author does a Critical Discourse Analysis of the reports on the three newspapers, trying to explore the similarities and differences.

The author reviews the development of news discourses, Critical Discourse Analysis, relevant studies at home and abroad and some key concepts in Critical Discourse Analysis. Then author goes on to elaborate the theoretical framework of the thesis—Fairclough's three-dimensional model and Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. After that, the author analyzes the sample discourses at three levels, description, interpretation and explanation respectively. At the level of description, the author uses Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as the analytic tool and studies the linguistic features including lexical choice, transitivity and modality. At the level of interpretation, mode of presentation, news sources and reported verbs are studied. At the level of explanation, the author discusses the political and cultural source of the ideology in the discourses.

It is found that although all the discourses are about World Cup 2010, and the three countries are all English-speaking countries, there are differences among the

news discourses of the three newspapers. At the level of description, it is found that *The New York Times* uses almost the same amount of positive words and negative ones to describe the game. *The Guardian* uses more positive words than negative ones and *The Sydney Morning Herald* uses more negative words than positive ones. Discourses of the three newspapers show slight differences in transitivity. They all use the material process, the verbal process and the relational process most frequently. At the level of interpretation, it is found that specified news sources are the primary sources of the reported speeches in all the discourses but unspecified or semi-specified sources do not exist in them. *The Sydney Morning Herald* uses more news sources than *The New York Times*. In addition, coaches' words are less quoted in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Concerning the modes of presentation, the author finds that as a whole, the news discourses employ much more direct discourse than indirect discourse and slipping. *The Guardian* differentiates itself from the other two newspapers in that it adopts more direct discourse(s) than indirect discourse, while in the other two newspapers, indirect discourse is more than direct discourse(s). At the level of explanation, the author analyzes the political and cultural reasons which may contribute to the ideology in the discourse. In the end, the author argues that readers should realize the existence of ideology so as not to be misled by news reports.

Key Words: Critical Discourse Analysis; World Cup 2010; Systemic Functional Grammar

摘 要

新闻媒体是现代人们获得信息、认识世界的主要渠道，同时又在影响和改变人们的观念、态度和行为。人们通常认为新闻是对现实的客观陈述，但是这观点受到批评性话语分析学者的质疑。他们认为新闻并不仅仅是现实的呈现，同时语篇隐含着意识形态，因此有必要帮助人们了解新闻是如何隐含意识形态，从而影响读者的观念和行为等。

2010 年的南非世界杯是国际的热点事件之一，本文选取的语料是关于南非世界杯的新闻报道，语料的来源是美国的《纽约时报》，英国的《卫报》和澳大利亚的《悉尼先驱报》，每份报纸各十五篇报道，采用批评性话语分析理论，比较了同是以英语为母语的国家关于世界杯报道的异同。

作者首先回顾了新闻语篇研究的发展、批评性话语分析的发展，国内外相关的研究以及批评性话语分析中几个重要的概念。其次，作者详细阐述了本文的理论框架——费尔克劳夫的三维模型和韩礼德的系统功能语法。接着，作者对三份报纸上的新闻报道语篇从描述、阐述和解释三个层次上进行了分析。在描述层面，主要以韩礼德的系统功能语法为分析工具，从词汇选择、及物性和情态三方面对话篇进行语言特征分析；在阐释阶段，主要通过转述方式、消息来源和转述动词分析了三个国家报道中的异同点；在解释阶段，探讨了导致形成该话语的意识形态的社会文化根源。

研究发现，虽然同时那些新闻语篇都是关于南非世界杯，三个国家也都是以英语为母语，三份报纸的报道还是存在差异。描述层面上，用来描述比赛结果和修饰比赛的词中，《纽约时报》用的褒贬义词汇相当，《卫报》褒义词汇多于贬义词汇，而《悉尼先驱报》贬义词汇更多。三份报纸的语篇在及物性上没有太多差异，使用频率最高的都是物质过程，说话过程和关系过程。而三者的情态方面也有差别。阐释层面上，三份报纸的转述语都有明确的来源，《悉尼先驱报》的转述语数量大于《纽约时报》，且其中较少引用教练的话语；转述方式上三份报纸直接引语的数量都大于间接引语。在解释层面上，作者分析了三个国家的政治和文化，特别是足球文化对报道的影响。最后作者提出，读者应该认识到新闻语篇背后隐藏的意识形态，从而不被误导。

关键词：批评性话语分析 2010 世界杯 系统功能语法

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Chapter One Introduction

This chapter is the introduction of the thesis. It describes the background and significance of the study, and puts forward the research questions. What is more, this chapter deals with the source of the data used in the study and explains the organization of the thesis.

1.1 Background of the study

News is an important source for people to get information about the latest events at home and abroad. The 21st century is a time when people are exposed to more mass media than ever before on all aspects of life and has witnessed the uprising of mass media into a huge world wide web. News discourse is a main type of media discourse and exerting power on people's lives. It has now become an indispensable part of most people's lives and influenced their beliefs and behaviors to some degree.

There are various kinds of news according to different ways of classifications. Divided by modes of transmission, news discourses consist of the ones on the radio and TV, and those in newspapers and in magazines. In terms of journalistic style, there are news briefs, news reports, editorials, etc. According to the contents of news, news discourses include political news, economic news, technology news, sports news, and entertainment news and so on. According to the places where news events happen, news can be categorized into local news, home news and world news. News is an important genre of discourses and has drawn the attention of linguists for a long time. Because media is playing a more and more important part in modern society, media discourses have become more and more important in the development of people's knowledge, attitude and ideology and as a result remain important as an object of Critical Discourse Analysis.

In spite of different types of news discourses, news discourses are always described as the unbiased recording of hard facts. People tend to regard news

discourses as accurate representations of what is happening. Therefore, news discourses should be value-free and impersonal. In other words, people generally believe that news discourses are unprejudiced recordings of hard facts and reality.

However, this viewpoint has been challenged by scholars in the field of sociology and linguistics, especially by those critical discourse analysts whose focus is on the social and ideological aspects of language. News discourses have got the attention of discourse analysts whose only interest in news is its specific features such as lexical choice, and sentence structures. Fowler (1991) argues that news is a practice, a product of the social and political world on which it reports. This calls for a new approach of discourse analysis--Critical Discourse Analysis.

Critical Discourse Analysis is a contemporary approach to studying language and discourses in social institutions. According to Fairclough (1992), Critical Discourse Analysis refers to the use of an ensemble of techniques for the study of textual practice and language use as a social and cultural practice. Therefore a successful Critical Discourse Analysis helps people make out the essence of a discourse. Critical discourse analysts work on the uncovering of hidden and implicit ideology in language and in news discourses in particular because news discourses are accessible data for researching and teaching. Critical discourse analysts claim that news discourses are not always representations of reality but just reflections of ideology. A lot of their studies show that the way in which events are observed, interpreted and reported is always conditioned by the social background and ideological perspective of reporters and editors.

People are more likely to be influenced by what they read in newspapers if they are not informed of that issue in advance. In addition, reading news is the most usual way for common people to know about foreign events. Hence it is necessary to explore how newspapers express reporters' personal views and influence readers' attitude, beliefs and behaviors through news discourses.

In order to explore that, Critical Discourse Analysis is applied here. Critical Discourse Analysis was developed out of Critical Linguistics in the 1970s in University of East Anglia, UK and it received most contribution from Systemic

Functional Grammar. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (1985) shows how linguistic forms can be systemically related to social and ideological functions and plays an important role in the course of Critical Discourse Analysis. In the past years, Critical Discourse Analysis has established itself as a field of cross-disciplinary teaching and research, widely being applied in sociology, history and media studies. Moreover, Critical Discourse Analysis is mostly applied to the study of discourses such as public speeches, debates and political news reports. Relatively few studies are done on sports news reports.

1.2 Significance of the study

In this section, the author deals with the significance of the study from the perspectives of linguistics, politics, and pedagogy.

1.2.1 Linguistic significance

Critical Discourse Analysis has been popular in the west since the 1970s and many fruitful achievements have been made by critical discourse analysts. However, such studies have been paid less attention to in China.

Previous critical discourse analysts tend to focus on media discourse on war, minority crime, strikes, and politics. Those seemingly "neutral" news genres such as sports and entertainment news are paid less attention to. Analysts also tend to do researches on the comparison of home news discourses and overseas news discourses. The research methods adopted are not comprehensive and systematical as well. Therefore, this study chooses to deal with sports news reports. In 2010, the World Cup was held in South Africa and it has attracted much attention from the world. Newspapers of many countries published reports on this event. A Critical Discourse Analysis of these reports will uncover the ideologies and attitudes hidden in the reports.

In addition, a comparative study between news discourses of an English-speaking country and news discourses of China has always been difficult

because reporters from two societies do not work in the same language. However, a comparison of discourses from two English-speaking countries may yield insight into the different ideologies presented in both countries' newspapers and the way in which reporters from the two countries use language. Moreover, a comparison of the linguistic choices on the same event can show the differences in a clearer way. The thesis testifies this research method.

This thesis analyzes news discourses under the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis which is based on the Systemic Functional Grammar and tries to explore the underlying power and ideology of reports on the three newspapers, namely *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. According to Halliday (1978), language is a social process. Therefore, the analysis in the study will pay attention to both the internal features and external effects of news discourses. The thesis hopes to help people better understand why news reports on World Cup 2010 on the three newspapers are different. The thesis also intends to help reader become aware of the ideology behind the news reports.

1.2.2 Political significance

News discourse, as the main pattern of media discourses, is a vital means for people from different countries to know each other. As the world becomes more and more globalized, communication and cooperation among countries are strengthened and relationship between countries has become more and more important. Therefore, it is an important way to know one country's image in the other through the analysis of news. Meanwhile, contrastive studies of news discourses on the same event will give people some insight into the relationship between different countries.

1.2.3 Pedagogical significance

This thesis analyzes news reports on South Africa World Cup on *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Sydney Morning Herald* and helps to uncover the similarities and differences among them and the ideologies behind them. The findings may be useful for English teachers to help English learners realize the differences between American English, British English, and Australian English and better express

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